

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 25-09-12

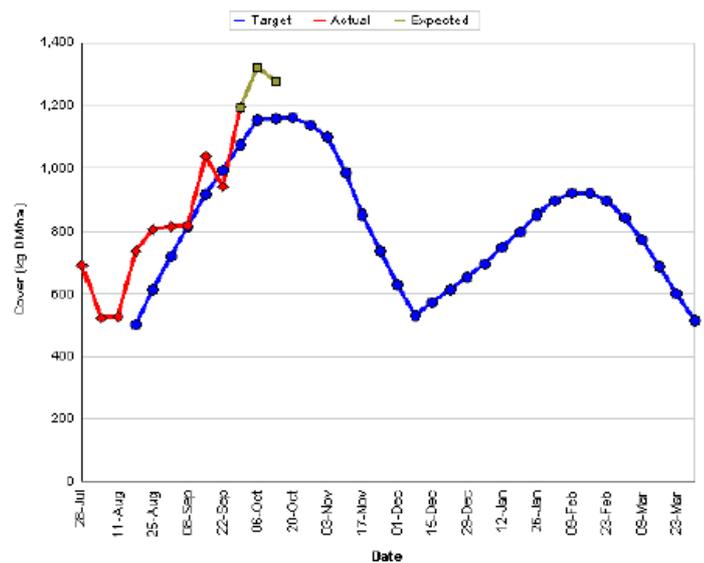
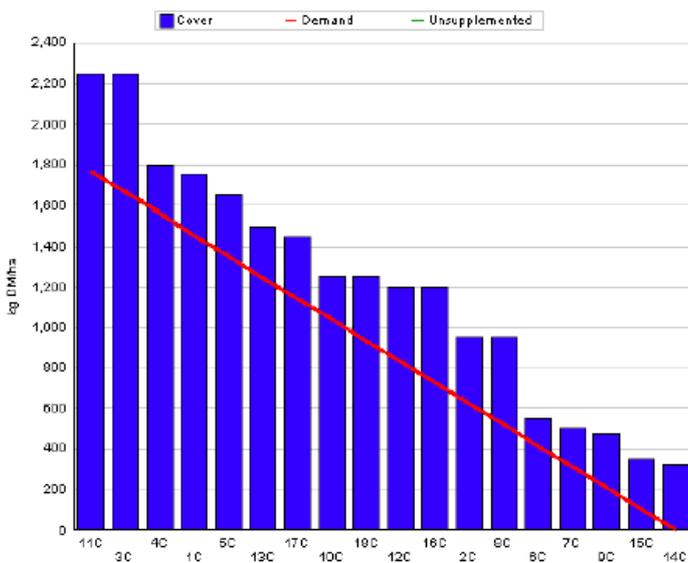
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge and Average Farm Cover Track

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced : 24-SEP-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 24-SEP-12	Treatment : Low SR		

Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) :	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1195
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	475
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	79
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	45
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1767
		Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	63 57



- Average Farm Cover for this week is 1195kg/ha (475/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 79kg/day (33kg last week)
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover has risen substantially from last week and it is now on above target for this time (red line). The yellow line indicates the expected average farm cover over the next two weeks while the blue line is the target average farm cover for Autumn and Spring.

- Growth rates rose substantially last week despite a fall in mean air temperature and soil temperature.
- No supplements are being fed.
- Pre-grazing yields are at 2200kg and cows are currently grazing paddock 11. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 to 48 hours. Grazing conditions are excellent.
- Rotation length has increased to 50 days.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

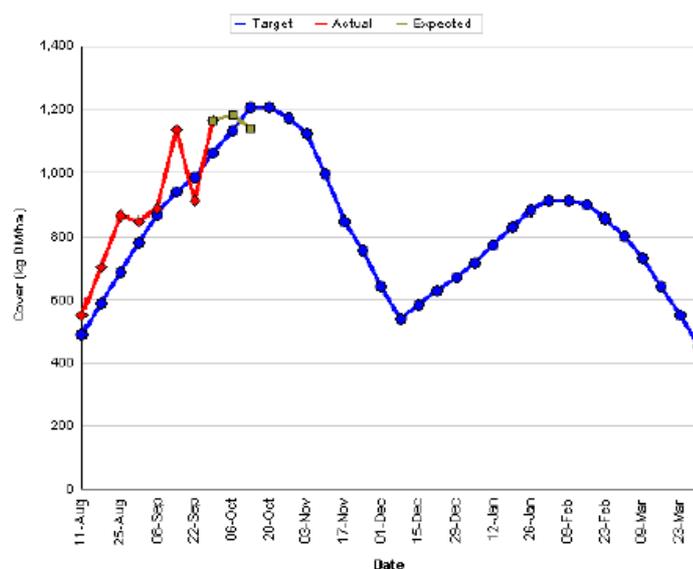
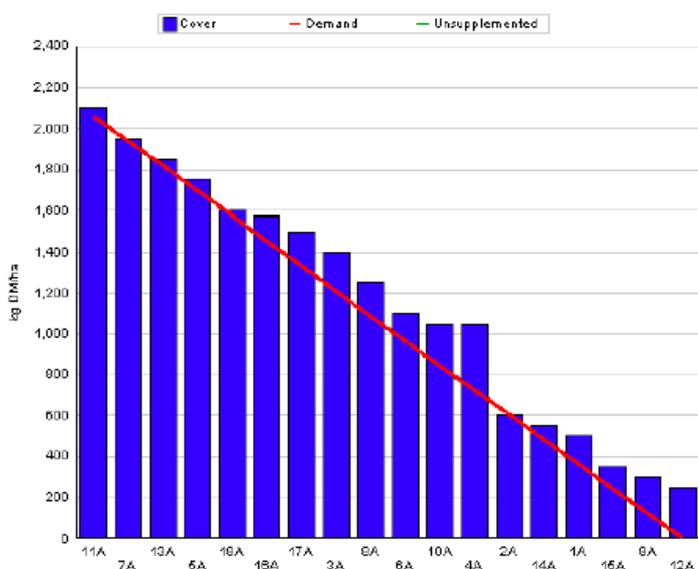
Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge and Average Farm Cover Track

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced	24-SEP-12
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	24-SEP-12	Treatment	High SR

Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) :	16
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0
N Application Rate (units/acre) :	
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	
Residual Height :	3
Total Livestock (LU) :	23

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1164	
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	353	
Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :		
Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30	
Growth Rate :	69	
Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	53	
Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	2056	
Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	55	50



- Average farm cover this week is 1164kg/ha (353/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 69kg per day (28kg last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover has risen substantially from last week and it is now just slightly above target for this time (red line). The yellow line indicates the expected average farm cover over the next two weeks while the blue line is the target average farm cover for Autumn and Spring.
- Current grass management decisions are based around average farm cover with the feed wedge playing a secondary role.

- Pre-grazing yield is at 2100kg and paddocks are being halved. Residency time per section is 36 hours.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 11.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 33 units/acre of sulCAN was blanket spread across the farm two weeks ago. This was the last application for the year and brought total nitrogen applied to 250kgN/ha.
2. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.36%, Protein 4.11%, Lactose 4.47% and SCC 316k.
3. Liquid mineral supplementation has ceased and cows are on an all grass diet. Paddocks are being dusted for magnesium.
4. The breeding season ended on the 26th of July and we are awaiting the results of the final scan at end of September.
5. Ground conditions are excellent. If conditions deteriorate 12 hour allocations and on/off grazing will be implemented.

